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S E C R E T

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OP IMMED

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FM JERUSALEM

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T 272043Z FEB 74 SENSITIVE

25X1

HAKTO 19 IMMEDIATE

TO: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: SECRETARY KISSINGER

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT:

QUOTE: I HAVE COMPLETED A SECOND MEETING WITH ASAD,

AS I INDICATED TO YOU IN MY PREVIOUS REPORT, ASAD HAS AGREED TO LET ME HAND OVER THE POW LIST, AND TO AUTHORIZE RED CROSS VISITS. BUT HE IS TAKING A VERY TOUGH POSITION ON THE OVERALL ISSUE OF DISENGAGEMENT. HE HAS TOLD ME THAT IF THE ISRAELIS COME FORWARD WITH A DISENGAGEMENT SCHEME THAT DOES NO MORE THAN RETURN THE SIDES TO THE 1967 LINES HE WILL BREAK OFF THE TALKS. ON THE BASIS OF PAST PERFORMANCE I AM FORCED TO BELIEVE THAT HE MEANS IT AND WILL DO PRECISELY THAT. ALSO ON THE BASIS OF PAST PERFORMANCE, I EXPECT IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN AN OPENING POSITION FROM THE ISRAELIS THAT WILL NOT RUN AFOUL OF ASAD'S PRESCRIPTION. THUS, I PLAN TO WORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENTATION TO THE SYRIANS OF A PROPOSAL THAT IS VAGUE ENOUGH IN ITS DETAILS TO AVOID THE PITFALLS POSSIBLE ON BOTH SIDES WHILE SERVING TO GET NEGOTIATIONS STARTED. I WILL KNOW MORE ON THIS AFTER I FINISH MY MEETINGS WITH THE ISRAELIS TONIGHT.

IN MY FIRST MEETING WITH PM MEIR THIS AFTERNOON I TURNED OVER THE POW LIST. SHE WAS GRATEFUL, AND ASKED THAT SHE BE GIVEN TIME TO NOTIFY THE FAMILIES BEFORE WE MADE ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THUS THE SLIGHT DELAY IN THE RELEASE TIME IN WASHINGTON.

I WILL FINISH MY FIRST ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE ISRAELIS THIS EVENING AND GO ON TO CAIRO TOMORROW. I WILL REPORT TO YOU FROM THERE.

UNQUOTE

0300

MNNNN

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

State Dept. review completed

\* \* \* \* \* W H S R C O M M E N T \* \* \* \* \*

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, RODMAN, SECFILE

RECALLED

PSN:021533

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TDR:058/21:24Z

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